

REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR'S SEVEN ACTION GOALS

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Thursday, June 8, 2006

This is my first Region 2 senior management retreat, and I want to open this meeting with my vision for our Region's future.

As all of you know, I serve at the pleasure of the Administrator and the President. It is my desire to serve as Region 2 Administrator until January 20, 2009, the day that President Bush leaves office. Between now and then, I have seven specific goals that I want to achieve – and I couldn't possibly achieve them without your help.

This three year tenure may run parallel with yours as well. Many of you and our staff colleagues will be nearing the end of your careers, putting the finishing touches on a record of outstanding government service. We all have a parting shot at creating an historic legacy for the environment of Region 2.

Three years is a brief moment in time for anyone's career. In fact, business analysts will tell you that it takes just about that much time to really understand one's job and to be truly effective in it.

For me, I'll have to fast forward it a bit – and, thanks to your help, experience and insight over the past nine months, I feel like I've been able to get a good handle on the business of Region 2.

Three years down the road, I want to be able to look back at my tenure as Regional Administrator and say that the following goals have been fulfilled:

1. First: The completion of the Phase One elements of the Hudson River General Electric Superfund dredging project and the establishment of a strong foundation for Phase Two;

2. Second: The selection and commencement of all interim actions for the Passaic River remediation and the acceleration of the pace of the study regarding final remediation;

3. Third: An EPA approved State Implementation Plan for New York's areas of non-attainment for ozone and Pm 2.5;

4. Fourth: An EPA approved State Implementation Plan for New Jersey's areas of non-attainment for ozone and Pm 2.5;

5. Fifth: The implementation of a comprehensive solution for solid waste management in Puerto Rico, including:

a). compliance of all landfills with EPA and Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board regulations; b) the finalization of a solid waste

management plan for the Commonwealth which includes strong waste-to-energy and recycling components, and; c). the closure of all landfills which pose ongoing dangers to the environment on the island

6. Six: The finalization of all decisions and enforcement instruments necessary to complete a comprehensive cleanup of Lake Onondaga and its sub-sites;

7. Seven: The renewal of the New York City Filtration Avoidance Determination with all necessary ancillary remedies in place.

By accomplishing these seven goals, we will be providing an even stronger foundation to build upon. Obviously, we have other matters on our plate. Homeland security, for one, has as much importance as any of these seven items, but it is an ongoing management matter and exists in a separate category of initiative. Likewise, there are major enforcement matters that I am determined to bring to a successful conclusion. These seven goals, however, represent the imperatives of my tenure, and I want to remain focused on them for the duration.

Benjamin Disraeli said, “The secret to success is constancy of purpose.” Indeed, this is our mantra as we work together during these next three years to create a foundation for the future.